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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 15, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended May 10 totaled an estimated 17.8 billion ton-miles, 1.1 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 19 weeks of 1980 was an estimated 334 billion ton-miles, 6.0 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended May 10 totaled 443,749 cars, 8.6 percent below 1979, and 3.1 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were down 14.9 percent in the East, 2.1 percent in the South, and 7.3 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1979, 16 of the 21 commodity groups declined. However, coal loadings totaled 116,151, 6.4 percent higher than 1979, and carloadings of other farm products and nonmetallic minerals went up 26.6 percent and 6.8 percent, respectively. Fifteen of the 21 groups were down from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended May 3 totaled 32,889 cars, down 15.3 percent from the corresponding week of 1979, and 59,933 trailers and/or containers, 11.9 percent lower than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 18 weeks of the year was 600,309 cars, 5.8 percent lower than last year, and 1,090,256 trailers and/or containers, down 3.5 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 5/10/80.

	Loadings in Week ended May 10, 1980		Change from Corresponding Week 1979			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	25,562	I	26	0.1	I	1,666	7.0
Other farm products	4,772	I	1,003	26.6	I	175	3.8
Metallic ores	34,665	I	77	0.2	D	745	2.1
Coal	116,151	I	6,959	6.4	I	943	0.8
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	15,666	D	3,491	18.2	D	43	0.3
Nonmetallic minerals	15,821	I	1,001	6.8	D	911	5.4
Grain mill products	15,703	D	1,788	10.2	D	766	4.7
Food and kindred products	17,481	D	668	3.7	D	66	0.4
Primary forest products	20,308	D	672	3.2	I	424	2.1
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,934	D	4,850	37.9	D	708	8.2
Pulp, paper and allied products	20,276	D	1,601	7.3	D	1,622	7.4
Chemicals and allied products	26,961	D	3,163	10.5	D	3,191	10.6
Petroleum products	5,636	D	1,020	15.3	I	59	1.1
Stone, clay and glass products	16,130	D	3,754	18.9	I	414	2.6
Coke	5,049	D	1,793	26.2	D	450	8.2
Metals and products	15,955	D	5,023	23.9	D	2,674	14.4
Motor vehicles and equipment	15,944	D	11,120	41.1	D	1,127	6.6
Waste and scrap materials	12,429	D	1,676	11.9	D	2,099	14.4
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	10,427	D	2,442	19.0	D	852	7.6
All other carloads	40,708	D	7,323	15.2	D	2,594	6.0
LCL traffic	171	D	225	56.8	D	28	14.1
Total Cars Loaded	443,749	D	41,543	8.6	D	14,195	3.1
Corresponding week of 1979	485,292						

	1980	1979	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (19 weeks)	8,410,660	8,412,065	D	0.0
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
18 weeks cumulative	315.9	296.7	I	6.5
Week ended May 10	17.8	18.0	D	1.1
19 weeks cumulative	333.7	314.7	I	6.0

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